

§ 957.7 Reply.

Not more than 15 days from the service of the request for a hearing, the General Counsel may submit a reply on behalf of the Department Head who initiated the debarment proceeding.

§ 957.8 Service and filing documents for the record.

(a) Each party shall file with the Docket Clerk pleadings, motions, orders and other documents for the record. The Docket Clerk shall cause copies to be served promptly on other parties to the proceeding and on the Judicial Officer.

(b) The parties shall submit four copies of all documents unless otherwise ordered by the Judicial Officer. One copy shall be signed as the original.

(c) Documents shall be dated and shall state the docket number and title of the proceeding. Any pleading or other document required by order of the Judicial Officer to be filed by a specified date shall be served upon the Docket Clerk on or before such date. The date of such service shall be the filing date and shall be entered thereon by the Docket Clerk.

(d) Service of all papers shall be effected by mailing the same, postage prepaid registered, or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by causing said notice to be personally served on the proposed Respondent by an authorized representative of the Department. In the case of personal service the person making service shall secure from the proposed Respondent or his agent, a written acknowledgment of receipt of said notice, showing the date and time of such receipt. Said acknowledgment (or the return receipt where service is effectuated by mail) shall be made a part of the record by the Department Head initiating the debarment proceeding. The date of delivery, as shown by the acknowledgment of personal service or the return receipt, shall be the date of service.

§ 957.9 Respondent's failure to appear at the hearing.

If the Respondent shall fail to appear at the hearing, the Judicial Officer shall receive the Department Head's evidence and render a Postal Service

Decision without requirement of further notice to the Respondent.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 23422, Nov. 3, 1972]

§ 957.10 Respondent already debarred by another Government agency.

(a) When a Department Head proposes to debar a firm or individual already debarred by another Government agency for a term concurrent with such debarment, the debarment proceedings before the Postal Service may be based entirely upon the record of facts obtained from such other agency or upon such facts and additional other facts. In such cases the facts obtained from the other agency shall be considered as established, but the party to be debarred shall have opportunity to present information to the Judicial Officer and to explain why the debarment by the Postal Service should not be imposed.

(b) Where the Department Head initiating the debarment proceeding relies:

(1) Upon the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, or

(2) Upon all or part of the record of the proposed Respondent's previous debarment by another Government agency, in initiating such proceeding, the notice of proposed debarment shall contain a statement so stating in sufficient detail to apprise the Respondent of the extent of such reliance.

(c) The Department Head's reliance upon provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, stated in conformity with the directions set forth in paragraph (b) of this section does not deprive the Respondent of the right to request the Judicial Officer to grant a hearing pursuant to these rules, nor the Judicial Officer the full discretion to grant or deny such request.

§ 957.11 Amendment of pleadings.

(a) By consent of the parties a pleading may be amended at any time. Also, a party may move to amend a pleading at any time prior to the close of the hearing: *Provided*, That the proposed amendment is reasonably within the scope of the proceeding.

(b) When issues not raised by the pleadings but reasonably within the scope of the proceedings initiated by the notice of proposed debarment are